Education *for* Change Public Schools

COVID-19 Operational Parameters and Safety Precautions
2022-2023 School Year

Overview

In order to safely operate during the 2022-23 school year, EFC schools need to implement updated safety guidance to support student and staff well being and decrease potential spread of the coronavirus.

The below precautions are based on the COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K–12 Schools to Support Safe In-Person Learning, 2022–2023 School Year and Alameda County 2022-23 School Guidance that are updated on a rolling basis.

Headlines:
In order to minimize cases of on-campus COVID transmission, follow these five key steps:

1. Self-screen for symptoms and exposure at home;
2. Wear a well-fitting surgical, KN95/N95, or KF94 mask indoors during times of high transmission ("mask season"; see definition below);
3. Wash/sanitize your hands frequently;
4. Keep the HVAC fan and/or HEPA filter in your room/office running the entire day;
5. Diligently follow the SY22/23 Quarantine and Isolation Guidance.

"Mask seasons" are periods of the year when indoor masking will be mandatory at school/work. "Mask season" may be put in place for all schools or individual schools by the Alameda County Public Health Department or EFC Superintendent based on the following factors:
- When Alameda County's COVID-19 Community Level is high (as defined by the CDC)
- When EFC is experiencing a surge in cases among students and staff.

Facilities	
Topic	**Precaution**
Ventilation	- MERV 13 filtration/needlepoint bipolar ionization systems are installed in our classroom buildings/spaces with modern HVAC units. Keep the units running throughout the day. - In spaces without modern HVAC units, run the HEPA filter throughout the day, keep door(s) and window(s) open at all times, and use a fan to circulate fresh air into the room. - As temperatures and conditions allow, keep windows open in ALL classrooms to increase air flow. Students and staff should wear extra layers to allow this to happen. - Replace all central HVAC system filters and HEPA filters at the frequency recommended by

	the manufacturer.
	● See this list for information on our ventilation equipment.
Cleaning/hand hygiene supplies	● Schools will ensure adequate supplies to support hand hygiene behaviors, including soap, tissues, no-touch trash cans, and hand sanitizers with at least 60 percent alcohol for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer. ● Hand sanitizers should be stored up, away, and out of sight of younger children and should be used only with adult supervision for children ages 5 years and younger.

School Wide Systems

Topic	Precaution
Arrival System	**Arrival Safety Precautions:** ● Students/families and staff are **required to self-screen at home**. ● Each school must display COVID symptom screening posters at entrances. ● During "mask season" (times of high transmission when indoor masking is required), staff checks that students are wearing an appropriate, well-fitting mask, or provides them with a mask from the school's PPE supply.
Meals served on campus (Breakfast, lunch, snack)	● Schedule hand-washing or hand-sanitizing process before every meal/snack for kids and staff ● If space allows, students should be seated 3 feet apart during meal/snack times. ● During "mask season", students should be taught the skill of "sneaky eating" (i.e. eating/drinking with mask on, only lifting or pulling down the mask to take bites/sips).

Student Attendance	● Students/staff who develop any COVID symptoms shall be tested with a rapid antigen test either at home or at school (depending on where they are when the symptoms develop).
	    ○ If the symptoms are minor AND individual was not in close contact to another person with COVID AND symptoms are likely related to a non-infectious condition (eg. headache, sniffles, etc. from allergies or chronic respiratory condition; fatigue from lack of sleep, etc.) AND the COVID test is negative, the individual may attend school, **but must wear a well-fitting KN95 or KF94 mask until they have repeatedly tested negative over the course of 5 days**.
	    ○ If the symptoms are significant (eg. fever, persistent cough) and likely related to an infectious respiratory condition, the individual should be sent home even if their rapid test is negative, and they may return to school 24 hours after their symptoms have resolved or significantly improved and they have again tested negative for COVID. **If their symptoms are significantly improved but not completely resolved, they should continue to wear a well-fitting KN95 or KF94 mask until their symptoms are resolved.**
	    ○ If the individual tests positive, please follow the "Protocols for Positive Case" guidance in the next section.

Daily preventative routines	● Teach students to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds. ● Increase the number of times sanitizer is used in classrooms/buildings as well. ● Teach and reinforce covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or one's arm (not hands!) to help keep individuals from getting and spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

General Safety

PPE requirements	**Masks**:
	● **During "mask season"**, well-fitting face coverings are required indoor for students, family members, all school staff, and visitors. The Superintendent shall follow ACPHD recommendations regarding when to establish "mask season" and when to make indoor masks optional, and will notify all staff and families of changes to masking policies as transmission rates rise and fall.
	● Note that permissible face masks include:
	    ○ disposable 3-layer surgical masks;
	    ○ KN95 masks;
	    ○ <u>non-valve</u> N95 masks;
	    ○ KF94 masks
	IMPORTANT NOTE: Valved masks, bandannas, and fleece gaiters do not offer adequate protection and are NOT permitted. Cloth masks may be worn over surgical masks to improve the fit.
	● **Fit is important!** The mask should fit snugly against the individual's face.
	● Face shields are permissible as a substitute for cloth face coverings for staff and students who are unable to wear them for reasons of age and special needs. Face shields should be worn with cloth draped across the bottom and secured (i.e. tucked into shirt, tied around back of neck).
	
	Face-shields/goggles:
	● Eye-covering (face-shields) will be available to staff members upon request.

Cleaning, disinfecting	**High-touch items:** ● High touch surfaces (eg. door handles, bathroom sink handles, water fountains, copier touchscreen, etc.) should be cleaned/sanitized multiple times a day. ● Teachers/tutors/paras should plan on disinfecting high-touch areas in their classrooms, custodials for larger buildings and common areas. ● [EFC Custodial Cleaning Instructions](#)
COVID Testing	In accordance with [CDPH Testing Framework for K–12 Schools for the 2022–2023 School Year](#) and the accompanying [Testing Framework FAQs](#), **the responsibility for COVID testing will in most cases shift to families**, with free kits provided by the state and federal governments. ● **Surveillance Testing:** The CDPH has determined that it is not strategic for schools to continue with surveillance testing, except for periods when there is a significant COVID surge in the community. This means that **schools** will use the antigen tests primarily to test students and staff when they become symptomatic at school as well as students/staff who were in close contact with a COVID-positive individual at school. As a general rule, all other testing should be conducted in the student/staff member's home. ● **Post-break Testing:** Per CDPH recommendation, all students and staff shall test **at home** prior to returning to school after each major school break (Summer, Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring). Schools shall distribute free test kits to families to test their student(s) the day before and the morning of the return to school. Home Office staff will send multiple notifications reminding families of this responsibility during the last 5 days of every break. ● **Symptomatic Student Testing:** Students who develop any COVID symptoms **at school** shall be tested with a rapid antigen test. **Per the state, sites MUST use the Binax Now professional rapid antigen test kits for this purpose** (not the at home tests from other

	brands.)
	● **Unvaccinated Employee Testing:** Note that per the Governor's orders, **all unvaccinated employees must still test weekly** (rapid antigen tests permitted) and submit their proof of a negative test to HR.

Protocols for **students** with symptoms	● **Isolate**: In the case that a student shows signs of the virus during the day, schools will need a designated outdoor space (preferable) or room for students to wait in until they are able to be picked up.
	● If using an indoor space, room must be ventilated and adult must be present with proper PPE and social distancing.
	● Students who develop any COVID symptoms at school shall be tested with a rapid antigen test. **Per the state, sites MUST use the Binax Now professional rapid antigen test kits for this purpose** (not the at home tests from other brands.)
	    ○ If the symptoms are minor AND individual was not in close contact to another person with COVID AND symptoms likely related to a non-infectious condition (eg. headache, sniffles, etc. from allergies or chronic respiratory condition; fatigue from lack of sleep, etc.) AND the COVID test is negative, the individual may attend school, **but must wear a well-fitting KN95 or KF94 mask until they have repeatedly tested negative over the course of 5 days**.
	    ○ If the symptoms are significant (eg. fever, persistent cough) the individual should be sent home even if their rapid test is negative, and they may return to school 24 hours after their symptoms have improved and they have again tested negative for COVID.
	● If a student tests positive, review positive case protocols below.

Protocols for **staff** with symptoms	● **Isolate:** In the case that a staff member shows signs of the virus during the day, **the staff member will need to alert their supervisor immediately** (and if applicable secure student supervision), and then depart the campus.
	● Staff who develop any COVID symptoms at school shall be tested with a rapid antigen test.
	    ○ If the symptoms are minor AND individual was not in close contact to another person with COVID AND symptoms likely related to a non-infectious condition (eg. headache, sniffles, etc. from allergies or chronic respiratory condition; fatigue from lack of sleep, etc.) AND the COVID test is negative, the individual may continue to work, **but must wear a well-fitting KN95 or KF94 mask until they have repeatedly tested negative over the course of 5 days**.
	    ○ If the symptoms are significant (eg. fever, persistent cough) the individual should be sent home even if their rapid test is negative, and they may return to work 24 hours after their symptoms have improved and they have again tested negative for COVID.
	● If a staff member tests positive, review positive case protocols below.

Protocols for Positive Case	● **If an individual tests positive, they must isolate at home.** Follow the instructions in the 2nd tab ("Isolation Guidance for Positive Cases") of our SY22/23 Quarantine and Isolation Guidance. ● Notify the families of students who spent more than a cumulative total of 15 minutes (within a 24-hour time period) in a shared indoor airspace (e.g., classroom) with someone with COVID-19 during their infectious period*. See this folder for individual notification templates in multiple languages. ● Inform close staff contacts verbally and in writing the same day that you become aware of the exposure (do not disclose the identity of the individual who tested positive)*;

	- Notify all staff of the positive case on campus in writing within 24 hours (do not disclose the identity of the individual who tested positive); and - IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS AN EMPLOYEE, immediately alert HR and **follow all of the action steps in the Employee COVID-19 Exposure: Instructions for Supervisors document.** ***IMPORTANT NOTE: CDPH recommends that in lieu of individual/class exposure notifications, schools should consider providing a general notification to the entire school community during times of elevated community transmission of COVID-19.** Use the "General Surge Notification" templates available in multiple languages in this folder for this purpose. This communication can alert all to the increased potential of being exposed to COVID-19 due to a rise in cases among school and community members, and remind all to monitor for symptoms and get tested.
Protocols for Close Contacts	- In the event that a student or employee has close contact with a positive case, please consult the SY22/23 Quarantine and Isolation Guidance to determine whether the individual needs to quarantine at home; AND - If the individual exposed to a close contact is a staff member, notify them verbally and in writing the same day that you learn of the exposure.
Protocol for classroom or school outbreaks	- Per CDPH, broad disruptions to in-person learning, such as temporary school or classroom closures, due to COVID-19 should remain a last resort and considered only after all available resources have been exhausted, and **only after conferring with local health officials.** - **No class shall be placed on home quarantine without prior approval from the Superintendent (who shall confer with local health officials in the event of a significant outbreak).**